

REMARKS

As a preliminary amendment, Applicant requests that claims 1-22 be cancelled, without prejudice, and that new claims 42-64 be added. Applicant has also amended claims 33 and 34 to correct typographic errors in the numbering of the claims. Regarding new claims 42-64, claim 42 recites subject matter similar to that in original claim 21, and claims 43-64 depend from claim 42 and recite subject matter similar to original claims 1-22. As such, no new matter has been added.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant requests that claims 23-31 and 35-41 be cancelled, without prejudice, and that new claims 50-55 and 58-61 be withdrawn from consideration, as discussed below in more detail.

Restriction Requirement

In the restriction requirement, the Patent Office stated that the application “contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: base member.” The Patent Office did not identify the species or the claims falling within each of the species. As best that can be understood by the Applicant, there are three species of the base member. Species I corresponds to Figures 6 and 7; species II corresponds to Figures 8 and 9; and species III corresponds to Figures 10-13. Claims 32-34, 42-49, 56, 57, and 62-64 read on species I; claims 35-41, 42-49, and 58-64 read on species II; and claims 23-31, 42-55, and 62-64 read on species III.

Claims 42-49 and 62-64 are included within each of the three species. Further, claims 42-49 and 62-64 recite subject matter from original claims 1-7 and 20-22, which the Patent Office stated are generic. More specifically, claim 42 recites subject matter from original claim 21, claims 43-49 recites subject matter from original claims 1-7, and claims 62-64 recites subject matter from original claims 20-22. Therefore, claims 42-49 and 62-64 are generic.

In response the restriction requirement, Applicant elects species I (claims 32-34, 42-49, 56, 57, and 62-64) and requests that claims 23-31 and 35-41 be cancelled, without prejudice. Applicant also requests that claims 50-55 and 58-61 be withdrawn from consideration. However, Applicant reserves the right to re-introduce claims 50-55 and 58-61 if any of the generic claims 42-49 and 62-64 are found to be allowable. Applicant also reserves the right to file divisional applications to prosecute claims 23-31 and 35-41.

Respectfully submitted,

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